



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

In Cooperation with Clemson University

South Carolina Field Office . 1835 Assembly St, Rm 1008 . Columbia, SC 29201 . (803) 765-5333
www.nass.usda.gov

Released on December 30, 2008

Contact: Rhonda Brandt, Director (803)765-5333
Stan Cheek, Agricultural Statistician
nass-sc@nass.usda.gov

SOUTH CAROLINA HOG INVENTORY DOWN FROM 2007

Hogs and pigs on **SOUTH CAROLINA** farms as of December 1, 2008, are estimated at 240,000 head, down 19 percent from December 1, 2007, according to the USDA NASS South Carolina Field Office. Of the total hog inventory on December 1, 18,000 were breeding hogs, down 11,000 from 2007 and 222,000 were market hogs, down 44,000 from a year earlier.

Sows farrowed December 2007 - November 2008 was 49,000, down 6 percent from the previous year. The average litter rate for the year was 9.16 pigs per litter, compared to 9.10 a year ago. Total pig crop was 449,000, down 5 percent from the previous year.

U. S. HOG INVENTORY DOWN 2 PERCENT

The **UNITED STATES** inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2008 was 66.7 million head. This was down 2 percent from both December 1, 2007 and September 1, 2008. Breeding inventory, at 6.08 million head, was down 2 percent from last year but up slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 60.6 million head, was down 2 percent from both last year and last quarter.

The September-November 2008 pig crop, at 28.4 million head, was down 4 percent from 2007 but up 6 percent from 2006. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.99 million head, down 6 percent from 2007 but up 1 percent from 2006. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 49 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.50 for the September-November 2008 period, compared to 9.28 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.60 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.97 million sows farrow during the December 2008-February 2009 quarter, down 3 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2008 but up 2 percent from 2007. Intended farrowings for March-May 2009, at 3.01 million sows, are down 2 percent from 2008 and down 1 percent from 2007.

The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 43 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 39 percent last year.